



**PLANNING COMMISSION WORKSESSION  
MINUTES  
MAY 13, 2009  
6:00 PM  
CITY OF FREDERICKSBURG  
715 PRINCESS ANNE STREET  
CONFERENCE ROOM 218**

**COMMISSION MEMBERS**

**Edward F. Whelan, Chair  
Roy E. McAfee, Vice Chair  
Roy F. Gratz  
Berkley Mitchell  
Vincent C. Ramoneda**

**CITY STAFF**

**Raymond P. Ocel, Jr., Director  
Planning & Community Dev.  
Debra M. Ward, Zoning Officer  
Mark Whitley, Budget Manager**

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**CALL TO ORDER**

The May 13, 2009 Planning Commission worksession was called to order at 6:00 p.m. for a discussion on the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).

Mr. Ocel began by informing the Planning Commission that detailed information on the CIP was being provided in order for the Commission to make their recommendation to City Council. The information being presented includes projects that must be funded and those that will not due to the lack of budget funds. Upgrades to the sewage treatment plant are required by State authorities. The courthouse project is still in its design phase.

Mr. Whitley explained that the City has capital funds in addition to the general operating funds. This was developed for fiscal years 2010-2014 to be used as a planning tool.

Mr. McAfee asked if anyone had considered what it would cost to police the Virginia Central Railway Trail.

Mr. Whitley said some discussion on the trail had taken place.

Mr. Ocel said that the design of the trail, such as making the trail wide enough to accommodate police vehicles, and lighting for the trail may help reduce the cost of policing.

Mr. Whelan asked if bids that were coming in for projects were lower than expected due to the economy.

Mr. Whitley responded yes, giving the bids for the new museum windows as an example.

Mr. McAfee recommended that the City convert its diesel vehicles to bio-diesel.

Mr. Ocel suggested that Mr. McAfee bring that recommendation to the public hearing, taking place after the worksession.

Mr. Whelan asked if there was any early information available on the effect of current assessments on the City's budget.

Mr. Whitley responded that preliminary numbers were in and that a significant decrease in residential assessments was being seen. As far as commercial properties, the decrease was not as large. He also said that the real estate tax increase would not be as much on residential properties as on commercial. Sales tax is also in a decline.

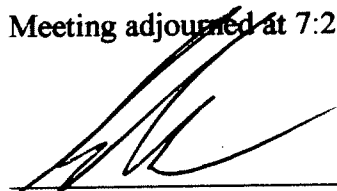
Mr. Ramoneda questioned the impact of the City's bond rating and how that would effect borrowing for projects.

Mr. Whitley said that the State had put the City on a credit watch. He explained that the City would probably have to borrow from a bond pool which carries a higher interest rate.

Mr. McAfee said he would be interested in seeing a comparison of CIP allocations to the Comprehensive Plan goals. He said such a comparison would allow Planning Commission members to compare priorities.

Mr. Whitley said he would consider doing a comparison for next year.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM.



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Edward F. Whelan, III, Chair